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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4209**

December 10, 2018

The Honorable Bill Haslam  
Governor  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, State Capitol  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Haslam:

Before your time in office comes to an end, I urge you to give full and fair consideration to the case of Cyntoia Brown for potential clemency. Ms. Brown, a juvenile victim of sex trafficking, was convicted of killing 43-year-old Johnny Mitchell Allen in 2004, who allegedly solicited her for sex and drove her to his house when Brown was just 16 years old.

Brown was tried as an adult, convicted of first-degree murder and given a life sentence.

Ms. Brown was a runaway who was living with her 24-year-old boyfriend, a pimp known as "Kut Throat." During the trial, Brown claimed she was choked, beaten and raped frequently in her home and threatened at gunpoint.

In May, only two members of the Tennessee Board of Parole voted to deny clemency. Two voted to grant clemency and two voted to make her eligible for parole in 25 years.

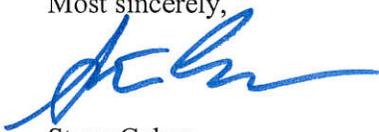
On December 6, 2018, the Tennessee Supreme Court declared that Brown can't become eligible for release from prison before serving at least 51 years, citing state law that a life sentence is a determinate sentence of 60 years, with the potential for a reduction of 9 years through earned sentencing credits.

As you know, in 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that mandatory life sentences without the possibility of parole for juvenile homicide offenders were unconstitutional. *Miller v. Alabama*, 567 U.S. 460 (2012).

Thank you for your consideration.

As always, I remain,

Most sincerely,



Steve Cohen

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